THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The average tariff for sale of electricity supplied to the consumers by the State Electricity Boards worked out to 120.71 paise/kwh during 1993-94.

(b) Tariffs for sale of electricity to the consumers are fixed by the State Electricity Boards, with the approval of the State Government concerned, taking into account the pooled cost of generation (including the cost of purchase of power) and supply. The tariff for sale of power by the private companies now setting up power plants will be governed by the provisions contained in the Tariff Notification issued by the Central Government on 31.3.1992, as amended from time to time, and will differ from plant to plant depending upon the capital cost, financing pattern, type and source of fuel etc.

(c) The need and extent of subsidy payable to the different categories of consumers is decided by the State Electricity Boards in consultation with the State Governments concerned, taking into account the various socio-economic compulsions, among other things.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Joint sampling of coal at power plants

2029. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken by Government to ensure joint sampling of coal at power plants, both in Central and State Sectors;

(b) whether any assessment has been made on the overall impact of poor quality of coal on the Plant Load Factor;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry has taken up the issue of installing washeries in Coal India to reduce ash contents at coal pi -heads; and

(e) if not, what steps are being taken by Government to reduce the ash burden on the power plants both from handling as well environmental point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Presently, sampling of coal is being done at loading end by an Organisation under the Coal Controller. The Utilities and Power Ministry have taken up with Ministry of Coal that Joint sampling at Power Station end is necessary.

(b) and (c) it is estimated that if coal as per design grade are supplied to the power stations which are now receiving inferior grade coal than their design grade, their PLF would improve. As per coal quality data received from power stations, 19 power stations received coal lower than their design grade during 1993-94.

(d) and (e) As a principle installation of washeries at coal mines for supply of washed coal to thermal power stationed at longer distance has been agreed but actual installation will depend on availability of resources.

Power generation in NTPC unit at Farakka

2030. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for failure of 4th unit of NTPC at Farakka in January, 1994;

(b) by when the unit is likely to be put into operation;

(c) what is the estimated cost overrun;

(d) whether commercial power generation has started in the 5th unit of NTPC at Farakka;

(e) if so, what is the maximum load at which it has been run so far; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons for delay in commencement of commercial production?